

**Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission  
Seashore Conservation Line (SCL) 2010 Survey  
FAQ**

**What's the SCA? What's the SCL?**

The Seashore Conservation **Area** (SCA) is a north-south strip of oceanfront land, lying between Ordinary High Tide and Extreme Low Tide, which runs north roughly from the Columbia River to the southern boundary of the Quinault Indian Reservation. **Plus** – what the State owns in fee **or controls** in the tidal/dunal neighborhood, **and** all State-owned accreted lands.

The Seashore Conservation **Line** (SCL) is surveyed and monumented by the Commission to set the easternmost boundary of the SCA, for purposes of management. To create a buffer, it's established 200 feet eastward of the permanent line of vegetation. The Commission first established the SCL in 1968, and must re-establish it every 10 years. We last set it in 2001

**Why are we conducting these surveys?**

RCW 79A.05.630 assigns to the Commission the jurisdiction and management responsibilities over the entire SCA, for the benefit of all citizens. Surveying the SCL at the eastern edge of the SCA is mandatory periodic maintenance required of the Commission by court order and contractual obligations, via deeds of dedication.

**What's a deed of dedication?**

It's a legal agreement by which an oceanfront property owner grants the Commission the right to **use and protect** his accreted lands for public recreational purposes. Since the oceanside boundary of these accretions is moving westward, the agreement requires the Commission to re-establish the location of the SCL every ten years.

**Who owns the "piano keys"?**

The accretion-related properties on the Long Beach peninsula are a piano keyboard pattern of State and private ownership and control. The State acquired much of its share of these accretions by court judgment, in what we call "the 74 cases."

**What will we accomplish with the SCL 2010 Survey project?**

We'll survey and monument the location of the SCL in Pacific and Grays Harbor counties, covering 60 miles and 25,000 front feet of oceanfront of the SCA.

We'll survey and legally describe all of the Commission's ownership and management properties which touch the SCL (12 developed parks and 19 ocean beach access area; 120 recorded deeds of dedication; and 3 acres of dunal land east of an SCL.) We'll use that verified ownership information to identify encroachments and trespass on State lands within the SCA. With that verified ownership information, we'll reduce on-going staff and attorney's costs that have been dedicated to avoiding litigation against the State and to resolving ownership disputes within the SCA.

We'll produce survey maps of record for all these properties. The definitive maps will be electronically linked to our GIS map inventories. Any beach property's location coordinates will then be available to park staff "on the ground" through their hand-held GPS units. This data will provide important tools for State Parks and local governments to identify and manage the State's extensive beach area properties for recreation and resource protection.

**What are the benefits of the SCL 2010 Survey to the Commission, to park rangers, to local authorities and businesses, to neighbors?**

The information gathered will help clarify ownership and boundary issues so that all stakeholders can make good decisions about the accretions: their conservation, stewardship, development, and trespass resolution.

**What public outreach efforts do we plan?**

Well before the field work begins in summer of 2010, Parks staff and the contractor will have met with local officials in Pacific and Grays Harbor counties to discuss the project scope and ask for their comments and concerns about the project and public outreach. Public service announcements and legal notices will have been published in Long Beach *Chinook Observer*, *The Daily Astorian*, *Vancouver Columbian*, *Longview News*, etc.

A fact sheet about the project will be posted onto State Parks' website, along with project progress reports. The Department of Ecology also has a website, updated with a page "Washington's Coast" where we may post information. When they're in the field, the surveyors will hand out a "letter of introduction" to local officials, local businesses, neighboring property owners and other interested parties. Park rangers will distribute hand-outs at contact stations and in the field. The counties may insert a flyer into utility bills.

All print and electronic announcements, flyers, brochures, etc. will include definitions of key words and expressions relating to the SCA beaches (e.g., what's the SCA? What's the SCL? What's the line of vegetation? What's the SCL 2010 Survey? Etc.) All such communication products will include maps and contact information.